

one of our country's most successful pilots. He was stationed at various bases within the United States and overseas, including Spain, Thailand, and Panama. Some of his most notable accomplishments include becoming the first pilot to fly an HH-53 helicopter across the Pacific Ocean, flying rescue missions over Vietnam, and recovering bodies from the mass suicide in Jonestown, Guyana.

Colonel Heeter received numerous awards in recognition of his outstanding service during his tours of duty. Included in these are the Bronze Star, the Silver Star, the Legion of Merit, the Distinguished Flying Cross, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, the Meritorious Service Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, the Air Medal with Four Oak Leaf Clusters, and the Air Force Commendation Medal.

After retiring from the Air Force, Colonel Heeter was a member of the international sales department at Bell Helicopter in Fort Worth, Texas. After retiring 10 years later, he returned to Rochester, Indiana, eventually marrying his high school sweetheart. In the last decade of his life, Colonel Heeter was an active member of Grace United Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, the LeRoy Shelton American Legion Post #36, and many other organizations. He enjoyed working on his golf game and spending time with his grandchildren.

Colonel Heeter represented the best that this country has to offer. His selfless dedication to the United States, to his community and to his family will always be remembered. It is with great pride that I celebrate the life and service of COL Owen A. Heeter.

TRIBUTE TO BILL AND BETH
HANKS

HON. JOHN J. DUNCAN, JR.

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DUNCAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Bill and Beth Hanks on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary, which they will celebrate June 15.

The story of Beth Ballentine Hanks and William "Bill" Franklin Hanks is one of love at first sight and the American Dream. Beth grew up in South Carolina and Bill grew up in Charlotte, North Carolina. The couple met while attending Furman University in Greenville, South Carolina.

At Furman, Bill, a sophomore at the time, spotted Beth, a freshman, waiting in line for the freshman orientation tea. He knew she was the one. Bill and his fraternity brothers showed up at the freshman dance to see Beth. He had his friends continually cut in on Beth and her date so that they never had the opportunity to dance together. Eventually, her date got mad and left. This was when Bill made his move. Bill and Beth were married on June 15, 1957 in Beth's hometown of Walterboro, SC. Today, the couple splits their time between homes in Knoxville, TN and Frapp Island, SC. They enjoy attending UT football and basketball games and spending time with friends and family. The Hanks have 4 grown children, Linda, William, Wallace, and Lucille, and 10 grandchildren. After 50 years, Bill and Beth are very supportive of one another and

still do their daily devotion together before they go to bed, no matter how late or how tired they may be. Madam Speaker, in closing, I am pleased to honor Bill and Beth's Golden Anniversary and urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating this very special milestone.

TRIBUTE TO PAT LOOMES

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pat Loomes, upon her retirement from Girls Inc. after 30 years of distinguished service to girls in Alameda County, California. This fall, Ms. Loomes will retire from Girls, Inc. leaving an organization that now serves more than 7,000 girls, has more than 90 staff members and a \$5 million budget.

While feminists across the country marched to demand equal rights in the workplace, in the classroom, and at home, Pat Loomes realized that improving the quality of women's lives meant empowering them in their most formative years, when they were girls. Although many of her friends disagreed, arguing that advocating for girls weakened the women's movement, she followed her heart. Her commitment to leveling the playing field for girls laid the foundation for Girls Incorporated of Alameda County and contributed to the organization's impressive growth.

Pat Loomes saw Girls, Inc. as a vital opportunity to set girls' lives on the right track and give them the skills needed to lead productive and fulfilling lives. Among her first accomplishments was a grant from the Department of Labor that allowed girls to learn about carpentry, construction and other non-traditional jobs from women already in the industry.

Soon, she realized that girls' programs received far fewer funds from United Way than boys' programs and embarked on a campaign to end the discrimination. She recalls, "I wrote a letter every week to the president of the board asking to increase funding until I got a response." Pat Loomes' campaign led to equitable funding, not only for Girls Inc. of Alameda County, but also for other girls' programs such as Campfire Girls, YWCA and the Girl Scouts.

In 1983, she created a formal program to treat child victims of sexual abuse. When government funds were discontinued for pregnant teens across the country, Girls Inc. moved to fill the gap and provided sex education and life options beyond high school, such as college, work, and travel.

Ms. Loomes' achievements and success with the myriad of programs at Girls, Inc. have been recognized by numerous organizations, such as United Way and then, Seaton Manning Outstanding Agency Professional Award for her leadership and advocacy on behalf of girls.

I join the community in thanking Pat Loomes for her outstanding legacy. She has molded and shaped the girls' movement in a profound way that will be felt for generations.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. JAMES
DETHERAGE

HON. JOHN A. BOEHNER

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate, thank, and recognize my constituent Mr. James Detherage for 35 years of service and 30 years as Chief with the West Chester Fire Department.

As a husband, father and Fire Chief, James has given outstanding service and support to the people of West Chester. His lengthy and tireless work in West Chester over three decades is a constant source of pride and unconditional praise. As Chief of the West Chester Fire Department, James has seen the department grow from a volunteer staff to its current state of 40 full-time firefighters. Outside of his post as Chief, he has also served as President of the Butler County Fireman's Association, President of the Southwest District of Ohio Fire Chiefs Association and President of the Butler County Fire Chief's Association.

James' attitude, fierce determination, and community spirit are a source of energy for all those around him. So much of James' work is done quietly and without reward and it is my honor to take this moment to say thank you and congratulate him on his new position as West Chester Township Public Safety Director.

TRIBUTE TO BOOKER T. DOZIER

HON. JOHN D. DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, June 11, 2007

Mr. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Booker T. Dozier, of Inkster, Michigan, on the occasion of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Dozier is a pillar of the Inkster community, where he has lived for over 50 years. Time and again, Inkster has turned to Mr. Dozier for guidance, organization and leadership. In 1993 he led the effort to create Inkster's Memorial Day parade, culminating in a successful annual event which continues today. His organizational skills were put to use again when he was called on by the Mayor of Inkster to spearhead a successful effort to raise \$100,000 for young man in need of a heart transplant.

There are also many different organizations which have benefited from Mr. Dozier's guidance. He has been involved with the Inkster Summerfest Festival Committee; the Because Inkster Cares Committee; the Optimist Club; the Inkster Dance Club; and the Inkster Goodfellows, who work to ensure that there will be "no child without a Christmas." Mr. Dozier also served as the Chairman of the Inkster Commission on Aging for over 20 years and has been a member of the Wayne County Board of Directors for Meals on Wheels for the elderly.

Booker T. Dozier has consistently served his community. His efforts to improve Inkster have not gone unnoticed, as one of the most well known and used facilities within the city is the Booker T. Dozier Recreation Center. I thank Mr. Dozier for all of his efforts to better